

level of patient care, having been named one of the nation's top patient satisfaction providers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Brown County General Hospital for being named one of the nation's top 100 hospitals. All of us in southern Ohio are thankful for the outstanding service and dedication of its employees, volunteers, and community members.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H. Res. 277: Expressing Support for Freedom in Hong Kong. This former British colony has been known to many in recent years as one of the world's freest economies due to its low taxes, free trade, and strong rule of law. Mr. Speaker, Hong Kong has recently undergone a number of political changes, which are in opposition to long-held agreements and understandings, which it maintained with its western trading partners.

The government in Beijing is promoting changes in the internal security laws of Hong Kong that will change the basic freedoms in that territory. These laws will restrict distribution of publications and an appointee of the Chinese government, not an elected official, could waive basic fundamental rights of the people.

The Chinese agreed in 1984 through the Sino-British Joint Declaration to explicitly guarantee that all of Hong Kong's freedom, including press freedom, religious freedom and freedom of association will continue for at least 50 years. The Chinese government also has pledged to respect Hong Kong Basic Law of 1990, which explicitly protects freedom of speech, press, publication, association, assembly, procession, demonstration, conscience and religion.

Since July of 1977, Mr. Speaker, the Chinese authorities have gradually chipped away at the freedoms it promised to keep for 50 years. For example, the system of electing representatives to the Legislative Council is less democratic. Appointed members have been added to district councils, and the central government has reversed Hong Kong courts, and declined to admit entry of numerous American visitors and other foreign nationals.

The proposed Article 23 laws that deal with sedition, treason, and subversion against the Chinese Communist Party threaten the rights of the people of Hong Kong. We know China's record in the application of the law to its citizens. This record is one that brings grave concern that China will not administer the laws in Hong Kong in a fair, equitable, and honorable manner.

Mr. Speaker, for all the above reasons, among others, I condemn any restrictions of freedom of thought, freedom of expression, or association in Hong Kong. Furthermore, I strongly urge the People's Republic of China to withdraw the proposed implementation of Article 23 as it affects negatively the freedoms

of the people of Hong Kong. I call on President Bush and his Administration, to express to the People's Republic of China the concerns as outlined in H. Res. 277.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 7, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Mr. THOMPSON of California and I rise today, to recognize Bill Barrett who is retiring this month after twenty-six and a half years with the United States Postal Service.

Mr. Barrett began his career as a letter carrier in Milpitas, California in 1976. In 1978 he worked briefly in his hometown of Yakima, Washington before returning to Milpitas, where he worked until 1985. He spent the last eighteen years of his career in Santa Rosa, California.

During this time Mr. Barrett also served his co-workers as a Trustee of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 183 from 1987 to 2002, and as Legislative Liaison from 1994 to 1998. He has also been a District Officer with the California State Association of Letter Carriers from 1998 to the present.

Prior to his career with the USPS, Mr. Barrett was a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force and served a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970. He is also active with his military service group, Blind Bat.

Mr. Barrett and his wife, Fran, are very proud of their two daughters, Amy, 26 and Missy, 22.

In his retirement, Mr. Barrett plans to continue his work with persons with special needs and to travel on his new motorcycle, with its special license plate that reads: XMAILMN.

His other hobbies are reading and researching genealogy on his computer.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Barrett has been a dedicated public servant all of his adult life, both in service to his country in the U.S. military and as an employee with the United States Postal Service. It is appropriate that we honor him today for his many contributions.

INTERNET SAFETY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 7, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize I-Safe and the Home Depot for announcing June 2003 as National Internet Safety Month. I-Safe and the Home Depot have teamed up to combat victimization of America's youth on the internet. They have chosen the month of June because it marks the beginning of summer when children spend the most time without supervision and the most time online. I know that we are all aware of the dangers the internet potentially holds, not only to us, but to our families and children as well. This is why I support educating America's citizens about the internet. Each month, forty-eight million children in the United States go online to chat with their friends, play, and/or do research. These children spend a com-

bined five billion hours online each year and the numbers continue to increase. With children spending more time online, predators are presented with more opportunity. One in five children who use chat rooms has received an unwanted solicitation online and this is unacceptable.

We must teach our kids about the serious threats they can face on-line. Recent studies have shown that forty percent of students do not understand the danger of exchanging pictures with strangers they have met on the internet and sixty percent do not understand the danger of meeting a stranger they have met online in person. Often times, parents do not know their children are meeting strangers on-line and this contributes to the problem. Seventy-five percent of parents say they know when their children spend time online, but the majority of teenagers log on right after school, before their parents arrive home. Also, most children who are harassed online do not usually reveal the harassment to their parents because they are afraid their parents may ban computer usage.

Many tend to think that harm on the internet extends only to children, however this is a false assumption. Most adults do not realize their identity can also be easily stolen on the internet. According to the FBI, identity theft has become the fastest growing financial crime in America, simply because a person can be identified based on three things: their date of birth, gender, and zip code. Most importantly, during this turbulent time in our nation's history, education is key to protecting not only personal security, but also national security. Our critical e-infrastructure must be protected from hacking, net vandalism, and virus proliferation.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss internet safety. I urge other Members to become involved on this issue. The internet has vastly improved our lives and opened the door to a world of opportunity, but with these technological advances comes a great deal of responsibility. Unfortunately, there are people out there who seek to exploit this new medium in communication. I applaud I-Safe's effort to educate children and adults on the internet and will continue to work with this organization to promote internet safety. Thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 7, 2003

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 296. Rollcall vote No. 296 was on passage of H.R. 660, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 660.

Also, Mr. Speaker, on June 23, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 300. Rollcall vote number 300 was on passage of H.R. 2465, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Relief Act of 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 2465.